

Appln. No. 10/700,955

Amendment dated April 28, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed February 24, 2004

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 5, the fishing pole holder mounting system 10 generally comprises a support member 11 comprising a medial portion 12 and a plurality of mounting portions 13. The medial portion 12 is positioned between the mounting portions 13. The mounting portions 13 of the support member 11 are designed for being selectively coupled to the boat whereby the medial portion 12 of the support member 11 extends along the rear of the boat. The medial portion 12 is designed for being selectively engaged by a securing means 2 of each of the fishing rod holders 1 whereby the medial portion 12 supports fishing rods placed in the fishing rod holders and allowing the fishing rods to extend outwardly from the rear of the boat. The medial portion 12 is coupled to the mounting portions 13 at an angle to allow the medial portion 12 to be positioned above the rear of the boat. The support member 11 is substantially U-shaped. The support member 11 is designed for substantially matching a perimeter of the rear of the hull of the boat.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

Each of the mounting members 14 comprises a plurality of horizontal bores 15 whereby the horizontal bores 15 extend through the associated one of the mounting members 14. Each of the mounting portions 13 of the support member 11 comprises a plurality of horizontal apertures 16 whereby the horizontal apertures 16 extend through the associated one of the mounting portions 13. The horizontal bores 15 of each of the mounting members 14 is aligned with the horizontal apertures 16 of the associated one of the mounting portion when the mounting members 14 and the mounting

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portions 13 are clamping the horizontally mounted cleats of the boat. Each of a plurality of fasteners 17 is selectively extended through one of the horizontal bores 15 and an aligned one of the horizontal apertures 16 whereby the fasteners 17 secure the mounting members 14 to the mounting portions 13 to clamp the cleats between the mounting members 14 and the mounting portions 13 of the support member 11 when the mounting members 14 and the mounting portions 13 are clamping the horizontally mounted cleats of the boat.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

For the purpose of this specification vertically mounted cleats are defined as cleats being mounted to a substantially vertical surface of the boat, as shown in Figure 4. Each of the mounting members 14 comprises a plurality of vertical bores 18 whereby the vertical bores 18 extend through the associated one of the mounting members 14. Each of the mounting portions 13 of the support member 11 comprises a plurality of vertical apertures 19 whereby the vertical apertures 19 extend through the associated one of the mounting portions 13. The vertical bores 18 of each of the mounting members 14 is aligned with the vertical apertures 19 of the associated one of the mounting ~~portion~~ portions 13 when the mounting members 14 and the mounting portions 13 are clamping the vertically mounted cleats of the boat. Each of the fasteners 17 is selectively extended through one of the vertical bores 18 and an aligned one of the vertical apertures 19 whereby the fasteners 17 secure the mounting members 14 to the mounting portions 13 to clamp the cleats between the mounting members 14 and the mounting portions 13 of the support member 11 when the mounting members 14 and the mounting portions 13 are clamping the vertically mounted cleats of the boat.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

In use, the user places the support member 11 through the support aperture 21 of the brace member 20 and the set fastener 23 is used to secure the brace member 20 to the support member 11. The mounting portions 13 of the support member 11 are place adjacent to the cleats at the rear of the boat. Each of the mounting members 14 are then placed on the opposite sides of the cleats from the associated one of the mounting portions 13. The fasteners 17 are then extended through the mounting members 14 and the mounting portions 13 to clamp the cleats between the mounting members 14 and the mounting members 14. The user can ~~the~~ then clamp a plurality of rod holders to the support member ~~11s~~ 11 and place a fishing rod in each of the rod holders while the user is fishing off the rear of the boat.